

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated October 4, 2005, Claims 12 and 20 were objected to as to form, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-11 and 13-19 were rejected as being unpatentable over the cited references.

In response to the Official Action, Claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 12 (including those of Claims 2 and 3). Former Claims 2, 3, and 12 have been cancelled. Also, Claim 20 has been rewritten as new claim 21. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 21 are independent claims that correspond to former Claims 12 and 20 respectively and, in accordance with the Official Action, are allowable.

In addition, Claims 4-11 and 13-20 depend from Claim 1 and are also allowable for the same reasons as Claim 1. Claims 22-31 depend from Claim 21 and correspond to former claims 2-6, 9-11, and 13-14 respectively. Accordingly, Claims 22-31 are allowable for the same reasons as Claim 21.

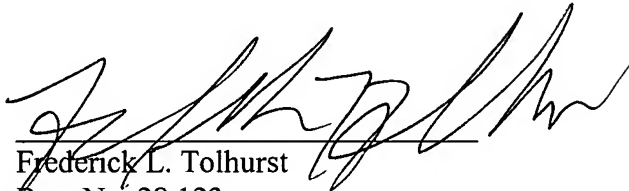
In accordance with the forgoing amendments to the claims and in view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 4-11, 13-20, and 21-31, as presently amended, are allowable and such allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Serial No. 10/694,455
Amdt. dated January 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

As an administrative matter, Applicant hereby submits herewith a certified copy of the priority document, German Patent Application No. 103 08 825.3 for the Examiner's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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